Statement

Monthly allocation of rice to Maharashtra during January, 1982 to June, 1984

(In '000 tonnes)

	1982	1983	1984
January . .	75·0	25·0	25 0
February . .	75·0	25 0	25 0
March . .	75·0	25 0	25·0
April . .	75·0	25·0	25·0
May . .	60·0	25·0	25·0
June . .	25·0	25·0	25·0
July . .	25·0	25·0	
August . .	25·0	25·0	
September .	25·0	25 0	
October . .	25·0	25·0	
November .	25·0	25·0	
December .	25·0	25 0	

S.T. employees in loco-workshop, Dohad

1619. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons employed in the loco-workshop at Freelandgunj, Dohad;

(b) the number out of them who belong to the Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) whether there are any plans for the expansion of the workshop or for the starting of new production units to provide employment opportunities to the Scheduled Tribes in Dohad?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Late arrival of Rajdhani Express from Bombay to New Delhi

1620. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajdhani Express from Bombay had reached New Delhi late by about 5 and a half hours on the 7th July, 1984;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what remedial measures have been taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 151 Dn. Rajdhani Express suffered heavy detention due to point bursting at Rohal Khurd Station.

(c) Staff at fault has been taken up to avoid recurrence. Safety drives have been intensified and surprise checks made specially during night hours.

Sudden rise in prices of groundnut oil

1621. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a sudden rise in prices of groundnut oil during the month of July, 1984;

(b) what were the prices of groundnut oil in Bombay as on the 31st May, 30th June, 14th July and 21st July, 1984; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to arrest this sudden rise in prices of groundnut oil?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) There has been some rise in the prices of groundnut oil in July, 1984.

(b) The wholesale prices of groundnut oil in Bombay are indicated below:—

Wholesale prices of groundnut oil in Bombay

(Rs. per tonne)

1-6-1984	16,692
29-6-1984	17,056
13-7-1984	18,408
20-7-1984	18,096

*The prices are for Fridays nearest to the dates indicated in the question.

(c) The main thrust of the Government policy is to increase the production of oilseeds and edible oils in the country for which various steps are being taken. Larger imports of edible oils are being made to supplement domestic production and availability. Larger allocations of imported edible oils are being made for distribution through the Public Distribution System. Increased allocation of imported edible oils is being made to the vanaspati industry to relieve pressure on indigenous oils. Use of groundnut and mustard oils in the manufacture of vanaspati is prohibited so that these oils are available for direct consumption. The State Governments are enforcing the various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations to prevent hoarding, blackmarketing etc.

Recommendation of Joint Conference of Central Council of Health and Central Family Welfare Council

1622. SHRI R. SAMBA SIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the major recommendations made by the Joint Conference of the Central Council of Health and Central Family Welfare Council held in New Delhi July, 1984; and

(b) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) A statement containing the recommendations of the joint conference of the Central Council of Health and the Central Family Welfare Council held in New Delhi in July, 1984 is enclosed. (See Appendix CXXXI, Annexure No. 35.)

(b) The recommendations are being forwarded to all concerned authorities for information and necessary action.

Foodgrains in the country

1623. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the present stock of foodgrains in the country being held by Government agencies and the States authorities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): The total stock of foodgrains with the Central and State agencies as on 1-7-1984 is estimated as 21.56 million tonnes.

Plan to control blindness

1624. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a massive plan to control blindness;

(b) if so, what are the details of the plan;

(c) the amounts allocated for the purpose during the remaining period of the Sixth Five-Year Plan; and

(d) what is the number of the blind in the country at present and to what extent it is likely to be brought down?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) Yes.